

**SUPERSTORM SANDY: WATERWAY DEBRIS REMOVAL
PROTOCOL FOR REMOVAL OF STORM DEBRIS FROM
BEACHES**

MAY 7, 2013



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Superstorm Sandy: Waterway Debris Removal Protocol for Removal of Storm Debris from Beaches

May 7, 2013

In connection with its waterway debris removal project following Superstorm Sandy, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") has developed this Protocol for the efficient removal of storm-related debris on beaches. This Protocol also provides a form for local governments to use when requesting storm debris removal from their beaches. This Protocol does not address FEMA eligibility issues.

1. Hazardous Substances

If a local government or the State's waterway debris removal contractor ("Contractor") finds an on-going discharge or spill on the beach, attempt to halt the discharge and immediately call the DEP Hotline and await further instruction from DEP personnel:

**1-877-WARN DEP
(1-877-927-6337)**

2. Items Not to be Removed by the Contractor

The Contractor shall only remove debris that is eligible for reimbursement by FEMA, unless expressly authorized in writing by the State Project Manager or the DEP.

a. Items Not Related to Superstorm Sandy

The Contractor shall not remove material or items that are not storm-related, unless expressly authorized in writing by the State Project Manager or the DEP.

b. Items Above the Mean High Tide Line

In no case may the Contractor remove from beaches any debris that is located above the mean-high tide line, unless expressly authorized in writing by the State Project Manager or the DEP. Beaches are excluded from any Contractor task order that calls for debris removal between the mean high tide line and the maximum extent of the storm surge. Although the Contractor has authority to remove debris from above mean-high tide in wetlands (see "Protocol for Debris Removal Operations in Wetlands Between Mean High Tide and the Storm Surge Line", dated April 23, 2013), that authority does not extend to non-wetland areas, such as beaches.

c. Litter

The Contractor shall not remove litter from beaches. Removal of litter is the responsibility of a municipality or other entity. Litter consists of cans, bottles, food wrappers, styrofoam coolers, broken beach umbrellas, etc.

d. Medical Waste

The Contractor shall not remove medical waste. Medical waste is solid waste that was generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, in the production or testing of biologicals, or in home self-care. **Please report medical waste to 1-877-WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337).**

Information on medical waste may be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/dcj/pdfs/beach-washup-guide.pdf>

3. Debris that May be Removed by the Contractor

Subject to the limitations set forth in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Protocol, the Contractor may remove from beaches Large Debris and Dangerous Debris that is eligible for reimbursement by FEMA.

Large Debris shall mean items that generally are too big for a municipality to remove as part of its routine maintenance operations. Such items generally are

- Too large to be managed by the local government's equipment (e.g., large decking pieces, sections of docks, big tree limbs, sections of siding, etc.); or
- too heavy to be lifted by laborers.

Dangerous Debris shall include the following items that are not Litter:

- Sharp objects: e.g., sheet metal, aluminum siding pieces, boards with nails, glass.
- Large hazardous items: home heating oil tanks, propane tanks greater than 40 lbs, 30-55 gallon drums, gasoline tanks from vessels or vehicles, etc.
- Small hazardous items: propane tanks up to 40 lbs, 5-gallon buckets, household chemicals (bleach, oil-based paint, lawn pesticides, cleaners, motor oil, gas cans for lawn equipment, pool chemicals, etc.).

4. Local Government Request for Debris Removal

A local government that requires the assistance of the Contractor for debris removal shall complete the attached Beach Debris Removal Request form and submit it to the following:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
waterwaydebris@dep.state.nj.us

DEP shall make arrangements for the State Project Manager (Dewberry) to conduct a site visit and give direction to the Contractor in connection with the Beach Debris Removal Request.

For urgent debris removal on weekends, the local government should contact the State's Project Manager (Dewberry):

Northern Region (Zones 1 and 2)	Richard Sullivan	rsullivan@dewberry.com	901-896-4727
Central Region (Zones 3-7)	John Flanagan	jflanagan@dewberry.com	504-289-8687
Southern Region (Zones 8-11)	Tim Berkhimer	tberkhimer@dewberry.com	757-777-4283

The DEP will make best efforts to have eligible debris removed in a timely manner, but the timing of debris removal may be impacted by weather conditions, other operational issues, a high volume of requests along the coast following a heavy storm, and the like.

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SUPERSTORM SANDY: NJDEP WATERWAY DEBRIS REMOVAL PROJECT
BEACH STORM-DEBRIS REMOVAL REQUEST**

Please complete this form to request removal of Sandy-related debris from beaches and submit it to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at waterwaydebris@dep.state.nj.us or by fax 609 777-1330. Attach any photos of the debris.

TODAY'S DATE: _____

MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENT ENTITY: _____

COUNTY: _____

LOCATION OF DEBRIS (closest cross street or latitude/longitude):

TYPE OF DEBRIS (check applicable boxes):

- ☐ Structural material (siding, roofing, decking, aluminum siding, etc.)
- ☐ Furniture
- ☐ Tree, tree parts or other vegetative debris
- ☐ White goods (refrigerator, dishwasher, etc.)
- ☐ Dangerous debris (propane tanks, heating oil tanks, sharp debris, etc.)
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

ESTIMATED VOLUME OF DEBRIS (check one):

_____ A few items. _____ More than a few items. _____ A large number of items.

MUNICIPAL CONTACT PERSON: _____

PHONE (cell): _____

E-MAIL: _____

NOTE: Litter and debris above the mean-high tide line is the responsibility of the local government or other entity. **An on-going discharge or spill, and medical waste, must be reported immediately to the DEP Hotline 1-877-WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337).**